

GENERAL NEWS

WHAT THE DISPATCHES TELL.

The News Boiled Down and Presented in Convenient Form for Busy Readers.

An extra session of Congress before next December is a certainty, according to a cablegram received March 26 by the chairman of the Cuban Senate's Committee on Foreign Relations from Secretary Hay.

Secretary of the Navy Moody and the Congressional Committee have selected Guantanamo, Cuba, as the site of the principal United States naval station in the West Indies. Twenty square miles of land and several small islands will be used.

The Mississippi River continues to fall at Memphis and at several points below. A break has occurred in the levee below Greenville, Miss., and it is three miles wide, and working great destruction. Some lives have been lost. A second crevasse has also occurred.

Hon. William J. Bryan aspires to the position of Chairman of the Democratic National Committee in the next presidential campaign. Mr. Bryan has, it is stated on apparently good authority, confided the fact that he entertains this ambition to several prominent Democratic leaders in Washington.

The polar-exploration habit is strongly fixed upon Commander Peary. It was understood that his long effort to reach the pole, which ended last spring, was to be his last appearance as an explorer. He had promised his wife not to go again, the papers said. But such meagre tastes of frost as we have had this winter seem to have sapped his resolution, for it is now reported that he is ready to make another farewell tour of the Arctic regions, provided that the Peary Arctic Club can raise \$150,000 to send him. The verdict of his last trip was that he was an exceedingly well-qualified explorer. Unless he is thought to be past the polar-expedition age, there is probably no American who is so likely as he to conduct a successful expedition.—Exchange.

The London Times of Monday morning led its foreign news with two New York dispatches of 200 words, headed "By Marconigraph." In an editorial the Times says that the messages are the first received in a contract with the Marconi Company to regularly transmit daily dispatches across the Atlantic without the use of wires. It further says that the event marks an epoch in the development of wireless telegraphy, and we may well believe that it does, if the experiment proves a success, and the Times continues to get its news from America in this way without difficulty. It is said that the wireless telegrams go right through the teeth of storms, and it will be interesting to see if this contention for the new invention is borne out in the Times' experience. If it is, then after the system comes into more general use it will enable news-

papers to get news on stormy days and nights when wires are down. In spite of the degree of perfection to which Mr. Marconi has brought his invention there has been some doubt as to its commercial value. The Times' news service will serve to show what there is in a wireless telegraphy.—Charlotte Observer.

The titanic struggle which is inevitable between what may be called the Old Democracy and the New Democracy, (the former represented by Cleveland, Hill and Gorman; the latter by Bryan, Teller and Tom Johnson,) already is on, and the election of Gorman to be the leader of the Democratic forces in the Senate and his immediate choice of a majority of the steering committee suited to his own financial purposes, emphasizes how keen to take advantage of conditions are the opposing forces. Mr. Gorman is a strong man, but the appellation fastened upon him years ago of "The Fox," expresses exactly what is in the mind of millions of his fellow-citizens as they contemplate his methods of work. No other man in the party understands the arts of political wire-pulling better than he, and he has a commanding view of the whole situation as well. But wielding for years the power of a corrupt politician in a State filled for a long time with comercio-politics well-nigh as bad as that of Delaware, Mr. Gorman comes to the field of national politics with a vision none too clear as to the moral purposes of the people; nor does he comprehend the wonderful strides we have taken lately toward better politics—a fact that is not to be denied, bad as things still are.—Chicago Rural Voice.

Trial of Tillman.

Charleston, S. C., April 4.—The trial of James H. Tillman, former lieutenant governor of South Carolina, for the murder of N. G. Gonzales, editor of the Columbia State, will probably begin in Columbia, April 13.

Tillman is still in jail, but he is chafing under the restraint of prison bars. Members of his family have called frequently to see him. The most significant visit was that of Senator Tillman, who went from Washington to have a talk with his nephew. It is said that the differences between them have been adjusted and the feeling is that Senator Tillman will do what he can to secure the acquittal of the younger Tillman. His efforts in this direction will be confined, however, to consultation with the lawyers in outlining a plan of defense.

\$200,000 to Jamestown Exposition.

Richmond, April 2.—The House to-day by a vote of 58 to 30 appropriated the sum of \$200,000 for the Jamestown Ter-Centenary exposition to be held at Norfolk in 1907. The wildest scenes of enthusiasm followed the announcement of the vote, five hundred tidewater boomers being in the capitol.

The Anti-Rebate Act.

One of the measures passed by the recent Congress, which is looked upon as anti-trust legislation, is an act to prevent railway corporations from making rebates in their freight charges. This is commonly called the Elkins Act. As Senator Elkins is a wealthy man and prominently connected with several corporations, there is a sort of grim satire in the very name. Moreover, the discussions that have taken place concerning this enactment make it tolerably clear that as trust legislation it is hardly more than a tub to the whale. It is true that the railways are very powerful corporations. Perhaps as nearly as any other corporations do, they approach the nature of trusts. But the trouble with this enactment is principally in the enormous practical difficulty of enforcing it. As is very well understood by all persons in the least familiar with railroad business, there is practically no possibility of preventing the managers of these railways and the shippers who utilize their trains from having private understandings as to freight charges. It is very well known, for example, that even when the presidents of several railways agree on a freight schedule, and this schedule is duly printed and published, nevertheless these agreements are violated, and that in such a way that even the rival railways, much as they would like to do so, are unable to detect and denounce these violations. We cannot help feeling that, after all the talk in favor of anti-trust legislation, this act and one or two others equally offensive, which are supposed to put arms into the hands of the new Secretary of Commerce and his assistants, are of little worth.—Nashville Advocate.

The Drunkard and the Saloon.

By a law which went into effect in England on January 1st, any person found drunk and incapable of taking care of himself in a public place or on any licensed premises may be arrested, and punished by fine or imprisonment or both. Then if he succeeds in buying any liquor within three years after his conviction, or if any one treats him to liquor, both he and the person from whom he obtains the drink are liable to fine. Under the old law he was exempt from arrest unless he was disorderly as well as drunk.

The prohibition against providing liquor to a convicted drunkard or to a person already intoxicated applies not only to saloons, but to social clubs of the highest standing. It places the rich drunkard on the same plane with the poor one. The law also assumes that the presence of a drunken person in a saloon is prima facie evidence that he obtained his liquor there, and the saloon-keeper must prove the contrary or suffer the penalty provided. Thus the accused saloon-keeper is assumed to be guilty until he proves himself innocent, reversing the usual rule.

As drunkenness is made a punishable offense, it is regarded as suffi-

cient ground for the separation of husbands and wives, and the law makes elaborate provisions for the relief of the wives or husbands of convicted drunkards, through separate maintenance.

The provisions of the new law are much more stringent than any that have ever been tried in England, and the effect of the enforcement of them will be watched closely by all who are interested in the suppression of the evil of intoxicating drinks.—Boston Youth's Companion.

The Delaware Situation.

The ordinary differences of political conviction between Republicans and Democrats are too trivial to be mentioned in the face of such political dangers as honest men now have to face in the State of Delaware. The Democrats, who were twice as strong in the Legislature as the regular Republicans, were willing to make a complete party sacrifice on the altar of sound political morals and common decency. There are a great many Republicans all over the United States who would much rather see their party defeated in the next National election than have it assume such responsibilities as that of Addicksism in Delaware. Apart from the moral aspects of the case, nothing could be a cheaper or more fatuous kind of politics than for the Republican National Committee to go partners with Addicks in the scheme to make a Republican State out of Delaware at the risk of losing the independent Republican vote throughout the country. Mr. Addicks has already begun to sound the glorious Republican slogan for 1904 with that irrepressible hilarity which has characterized his audacious career. He proposes to "carry the State in 1904 for the President,"—but frankly admits that his object in doing so is to create a wave upon which he himself may be borne triumphantly into the United States Senate. There are some victories which cost too dear; and if Mr. Dick, of Ohio, were a wiser politician, he would know that the prospect of carrying Delaware in 1904 under present circumstances is not a happy omen for the Republican party at large. Tammany Hall, in New York, is a model of political virtue when compared with Addicksism in Delaware. Even a dull political intelligence can understand the reasons why the National Democratic Committee might be tempted to conspire with Tammany Hall, even at the risk of some odium, when the thing at stake is the great block of electoral votes cast by the imperial and pivotal State of New York. But for the National Republican Committee to incur the odium of plunging boldly into the mire of Addicksism in Delaware, with no possible prize to be won except the electoral vote of a State that has only one Representative in Congress, looks like a reckless bid for the nation's ridicule and contempt.—From "The Progress of the World," in the American Monthly Review of Reviews for April.